## Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claims 1, 61-88, 98-103 and 106-119, and amend the pending claims as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application.

1-88. **(Canceled)**

89. **(Currently amended)** A non-naturally occurring ~~occuring~~ polypeptide comprising a bioactive peptide, a first stabilizing group attached to the N-terminus of the bioactive peptide, and a second stabilizing group attached to the C-terminus of the bioactive peptide, wherein the first stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, Pro-, Pro-Pro-, Xaa-Pro- and Xaa-Pro-Pro-, and wherein the second stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, -Pro, -Pro-Pro, -Pro-Xaa and –Pro-Pro-Xaa.

90. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 wherein the small stable protein is selected from the group consisting of Rop protein, glutathione sulfotransferase, thioredoxin, maltose binding protein, and glutathione reductase.

91. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 wherein the first stabilizing group is Pro-Pro- and the second stabilizing group is –Pro-Pro.

92. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 wherein at least one of the first and second stabilizing groups comprises a small stable protein.

93. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 92 wherein the small stable protein is

a four-helix bundle protein.

94. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 92 wherein the small stable protein is selected from the group consisting of Rop protein, glutathione sulfotransferase, thioredoxin, maltose binding protein, and glutathione reductase.

95. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 94 wherein the small stable protein is Rop protein.

96. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 which is an antimicrobial peptide.

97. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 which is a therapeutic peptide drug.

98 - 103. **(Canceled)**

104. **(Previously presented)** A non-naturally occurring polypeptide comprising:

a bioactive peptide;

a first stabilizing group attached to the N-terminus of said bioactive peptide, wherein said first stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, -Pro-, -Pro-Pro-, -Xaa-Pro- and -Xaa-Pro-Pro-;

a second stabilizing group attached to the C-terminus of said bioactive peptide, wherein said second stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, -Pro, -Pro-Pro, -Pro-Xaa and –Pro-Pro-Xaa; and

a cleavage site immediately preceding the first stabilizing group.

105. **(Previously presented)** A non-naturally occurring polypeptide comprising:

a bioactive peptide;

a first stabilizing group attached to the N-terminus of said bioactive peptide, wherein said first stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, Pro-, Pro-Pro-, Xaa-Pro- and Xaa-Pro-Pro-;

a second stabilizing group attached to the C-terminus of said bioactive peptide, wherein said second stabilizing group is selected from the group consisting of a small stable protein, -Pro, -Pro-Pro, -Pro-Xaa and –Pro-Pro-Xaa; and

a cleavage site immediately following the second stabilizing group.

106-119. **(Canceled)**

120. **(Previously presented)** A non-naturally occurring polypeptide comprising a bioactive peptide and a stabilizing group attached to either or both of the N-terminus or C-terminus of the bioactive peptide, wherein the stabilizing group attached to the N-terminus, if present, comprises Xaa-Pro-Pro-, and the stabilizing group attached to the C-terminus, if present, comprises –Pro-Pro-Xaa.

121. **(Previously presented)** A non-naturally occurring polypeptide comprising a bioactive peptide and a stabilizing group comprising Rop protein attached to either or both of the N-terminus or C-terminus of the bioactive peptide.

122. **(Previously presented)** A non-naturally occurring polypeptide comprising a bioactive peptide and a stabilizing group comprising a four-helix bundle protein attached to either or both of the N-terminus or C-terminus of the bioactive peptide.

123. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 89 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.

124. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 104 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.

125. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 105 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.

126. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 120 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.

127. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 121 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.

128. **(Previously presented)** The polypeptide of claim 122 wherein the bioactive peptide is a naturally occurring bioactive peptide.